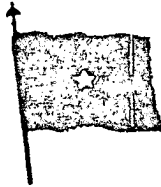


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Mr. William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey;

On the basis of four months as Director of Intelligence and Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C⁴) Systems Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, I have reached several conclusions that I believe warrant sharing with you.

It is apparent that the national intelligence community is healthy, highly respected, and operating smoothly. I am impressed with the scope and complexity of the challenges and with the quality of the community's response to these challenges. Particularly reassuring to me is the apparently increasing emphasis placed on intelligence support to the operational forces, including the support inherent in many National Foreign Intelligence Program initiatives. This support is currently being demonstrated in Lebanon where the Commander, 32d Marine Amphibious Unit has recently reported on the excellent support provided by national intelligence systems and organizations during the PLO withdrawal operations.

As you know, the Marine Corps' participation in national level intelligence activities expanded greatly three years ago when we were afforded full NFIB status. Concurrently, the Commandant assigned a general officer as the Director of Intelligence. It is to the credit of my predecessors, Brigadier Generals Dick DEAN and Harry HAGAMAN, that we can look back and see the truly significant benefits that have accrued to the Marine Corps as a result of NFIB status and national level participation. In recognition of their contributions as Directors of Intelligence, the Commandant has retained a general officer in that billet. Unfortunately, a shortage of general officers necessitated my "double-hatting" in the two critical areas of Intelligence and C⁴ Systems.

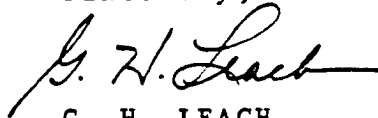
An obvious result of this situation is an inability to attend all the meetings which the Director of Intelligence and the Director of C⁴ Systems Division might be expected to attend as the Marine Corps principal. It was naive of me to

expect that after a shake down period of a few months, my ability to be in two places at the same time might somehow improve! Such has obviously not come to pass. This is of particular concern to me because of my inability to meet with the NFIB. I want to assure you that the estimates processed through the NFIB have received thoroughly professional attention in our institution despite my lack of personal involvement in the NFIB.

This brings me to the main point of this letter. Until such time as my schedule permits, I must necessarily rely upon my highly qualified staff to represent the Marine Corps at many of the meetings where principals are normally expected. I solicit your understanding and acceptance of this temporary arrangement. I would not want the Marine Corps excluded from any significant meetings or actions because of my non-availability. As you know, the Commandant has approved upgrading the billet of my Special Assistant to Senior Executive Service status. This action is currently being reviewed at the departmental level. Subsequent DON approval of this upgrade will further facilitate our participation in national level activities. Meanwhile, I will be relying on the Special Assistant, my Deputy, and other functional area supervisors to assist me in my national level representational duties. Specifically, Mr. John GUENTHER, my Special Assistant and NFIB alternate, and Colonel Jim TOWNSEND, my Deputy, may be required to represent the Marine Corps at national level meetings in which the Director of Intelligence would normally take part.

I consider it a unique privilege and honor to represent the Marine Corps in the national intelligence community and look forward to the time when my full participation becomes possible. Meanwhile, please accept my thanks for the superb support the national intelligence community has provided to the Marine Corps and for your understanding of my current situation.

Sincerely,



G. H. LEACH

Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Director of Intelligence